

The Senate Insurance and Labor Committee offered the following substitute to SB 438:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the state employees' health insurance plan, so as to provide time requirements for the credentialing of hospitals, physicians, and other health care providers by a new third-party administrator of the state employees' health insurance plan; to provide for related matters; to provide for applicability; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the state employees' health insurance plan, is amended by adding a new Code section to the end of such article to read as follows:

"45-18-20.

(a) At any time in which the board selects and enters into a contract with a new third party to administer health benefits under this article, the new third-party administrator shall be required to complete the credentialing process on any hospital, physician, or other health care provider:

(1) Within 30 days of receiving an application for reapproval of credentialing from a hospital, physician, or other health care provider that had been approved and credentialed by the third-party administrator immediately preceding the new third-party administrator; and

(2) Within 60 days of receiving an application for approval of credentialing from a hospital, physician, or other health care provider that is to be newly approved and credentialed by the third-party administrator.

The board shall have the authority to grant, in its sole discretion, up to 15 additional days to the third-party administrator with respect to paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Code section if the administrator can demonstrate due diligence in its efforts to meet such time

1 requirements. The requirements of this Code section shall be included in the contract
2 entered into between the board and the third-party administrator.

3 (b) This Code section shall apply to all plan years beginning on and after the effective date
4 of this Code section and shall also apply to the plan year in effect as of the effective date
5 of this Code section as it relates to any hospital, physician, or other health care provider
6 that has applied for but not received a determination on credentialing. For purposes of such
7 hospitals, physicians, or other health care providers, the time requirements in subsection
8 (a) of this Code section shall begin on the later of the effective date of this Code section
9 or upon entering into a contract with the board and receipt of application for credentialing
10 by the third-party administrator.

11 (c) For the plan year in effect as of the effective date of this Code section, the third-party
12 administrator shall approve payment for hospitals, physicians, and other health care
13 providers for services rendered by hospitals, physicians, and other health care providers
14 between the date of receipt by the third-party administrator of the application for
15 credentialing and the date of approval of the credentialing application; provided, however,
16 this shall not apply to any services rendered prior to January 1, 2006. This subsection shall
17 not be construed to effect any impairment of a contract or contracts and shall only be
18 enforceable to the extent any contract or contracts are not impaired."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
21 without such approval.

22 **SECTION 3.**

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.